

Message Text

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20

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 SAJ-01 OMB-01 SAM-01 /080 W

----- 051426

R 160723Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9908

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

CINCPAC

UNCLAS KUALA LUMPUR 2697

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, ASEAN, SC, MY

SUBJ: ASEAN FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING: PROGRESS REPORT

REF: KL 2689

1. IN JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE ON MAY 15 OF ASEAN FOREIGN MINISTERS, MALAYSIAN MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND SPECIAL FUNCTIONS FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS TENGKU AHMAD RITHAUDDEEN MADE FOLLOWING POINTS; ACCORDING TO NEW STRAITS TIMES:

A) ASEAN FOREIGN MINISTERS HAVE ACCEPTED A DRAFT TREATY OF AMITY AND COOPERATION WHICH SPELS OUT PROCEDURE FOR PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTE BETWEEN ASEAN COUNTRIES. RITHAUDDEEN
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SAID "ACCEPTANCE OF THE DRAFT TREATY OF AMITY AND COOPERATION

IS A MOST IMPORTANT STEP TOWARDS THE REALIZATION OF ASEAN'S DESIRE TO ESTABLISH A ZONE OF PEACE, FREEDOM AND NEUTRALITY FOR THE REGION." THE DRAFT WILL BE SUBMITTED TO THE FIVE ASEAN GOVERNMENTS FOR CONSIDERATION.

B) FOREIGN MINISTERS ALSO APPROVED "A BLUEPRINT FOR THE CREATION OF A ZONE OF PEACE, FREEDOM AND NEUTRALITY IN SOUTHEAST ASIA PURSUANT TO THE KUALA LUMPUR DECLARATION." IN CASE OF NEUTRALITY BLUEPRINT RITHAUDDEEN SAID "SENIOR ASEAN OFFICIALS MIGHT HAVE TO MEET TO FILL IN SOME OF THE GAPS."

C) RITHAUDDEEN RENEWED ASEAN'S READINESS TO ENTER INTO "FRIENDLY AND HARMONIOUS RELATIONS" WITH ALL THE COUNTRIES OF INDOCHINA. MINISTERS ALSO REITERATED THEIR WILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE WITH INDOCHINA COUNTRIES IN NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT "ON THE BASIS OF STRICT ADHERENCE TO THE PRINCIPLES OF PEACEFUL CO-EXISTENCE AND MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL COOPERATION, NON-INTERFERENCE, RESPECT FOR SOVEREIGNTY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY, EQUALITY AND JUSTICE IN THE CONDUCT OF THEIR RELATIONS WITH ONE ANOTHER." MINISTERS WELCOMED RESTORATION OF PEACE IN CAMBODIA AND SOUTH VIETNAM AND HOPE THAT THIS WILL OPEN UP PROSPECTS FOR REAL PEACE, PROGRESS AND STABILITY IN SOUTHEAST ASIA.

D) RITHAUDDEEN ALSO SAID ASEAN WILL CONTINUE TO OFFER THE LOGICAL FRAMEWORK FOR ESTABLISHING PEACE, PROGRESS AND STABILITY IN THE REGION. HE ADDED "WE REAFFIRM OUR DETERMINATION TO FURTHER STRENGTHEN THE ORGANIZATION BY INTENSIFYING AND BROADENING COOPERATION AMONG MEMBER STATES."

2. REPLYING TO QUESTIONS FROM NEWSMEN FOLLOWING STATEMENT, INDONESIAN FONMIN ABDUL MALIK SAID MINISTERS HAVE DISCUSSED POSSIBILITY OF CONVENING AN ASEAN SUMMIT MEETING AND WERE NOW LEAVING THE DECISION TO THEIR HEADS OF GOVERNMENT.

3. IN RESPONSE TO ANOTHER QUESTION, PHILIPPINE FONMIN ROMULO SAID ASEAN VIEWED WITH CONCERN THE NEW CRISIS IN CAMBODIA ARISING FROM THE SEIZURE OF THE VESSEL "MAYAGUEZ". HE ADDED, "HOWEVER, IN THIS TROUBLED TIME WE CANNOT COMPLICATE A COMPLICATED SITUATION BY MAKING STATEMENTS."

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4. ROMULO ALSO SAID ASEAN WILL CONSIDER APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP FROM ANY COUNTRIES IN THE REGION. "HOWEVER, ASEAN RULES BY CONSENSUS AND WE DO NOT ASK AN INDIVIDUAL COUNTRY TO JOIN US." HE REFUTED SUGGESTION THAT PRESENCE OF U.S. TROOPS IN THAILAND AND THE PHILIPPINES DELAYED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A ZONE OF PEACE AND NEUTRALITY IN SE ASIA.

5. EMBASSY COMMENT TO FOLLOW.
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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AMITY, AGREEMENTS, FOREIGN RELATIONS, FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETINGS, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION, MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975KUALA02697
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750172-0653
From: KUALA LUMPUR
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750546/aaaaboxh.tel
Line Count: 117
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 KL 2689
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 JUL 2003 by SilvaL0>; APPROVED <10 FEB 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ASEAN FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING: PROGRESS REPORT
TAGS: PFOR, SC, MY, ASEAN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006